

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable terminal apparatus comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a surface lighting portion provided on the outer surface of said housing; and
 - a panel member detachably mounted on said housing so as to cover said surface lighting portion, at least a part of said panel member being transparent or semitransparent.
2. A portable terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said surface lighting portion has a flat outer surface;
 - said panel member comprises a flat plate like member; and
 - said housing has means for holding said flat plate like member placed on said flat outer surface of said surface lighting portion.
3. A portable terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus has a communication function, and the whole of said surface lighting portion is illuminated upon receiving an incoming call.
4. A portable terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said surface lighting portion comprises a light source and a light guiding plate for guiding

light emitted from said light source and scattering said light from one surface.

5. A portable terminal apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising means for changing a lighting pattern provided by said surface lighting portion according to a caller upon receiving an incoming call.

6. A portable terminal apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said panel member comprises a plurality of panel members adapted to be selectively mounted on said housing, each of said panel members having information for specifying said lighting pattern;

 said apparatus further comprising means for detecting said information and means for controlling said lighting portion according to said information detected by said detecting means.

7. A portable terminal apparatus having a communication function, comprising:

 an upper housing;

 a lower housing;

 a hinge portion for pivotably connecting said upper housing and said lower housing so that said upper housing is foldable with respect to said lower housing;

 a hinge lighting portion provided at said hinge portion for illumination in the condition where said

upper housing is folded with respect to said lower housing;

a surface lighting portion provided on the outer surface of said upper housing; and

control means for controlling lighting patterns of said hinge lighting portion and said surface lighting portion independently and selectively.

8. A portable terminal apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said control means comprises means for variably controlling said lighting patterns of said hinge lighting portion and said surface lighting portion according to an event occurring in said apparatus.

9. A portable terminal apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said event comprises at least two of calling, speaking, and charging.

10. A portable terminal apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said control means comprises means for changing the lighting pattern of at least said surface lighting portion according to a caller upon receiving an incoming call.

11. A portable terminal apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said control means comprises means for variably controlling said lighting patterns of said hinge lighting portion and said surface lighting portion

according to a user instruction.

12. A portable terminal apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said hinge lighting portion has a semicylindrical light guiding member at said hinge portion, so that light emerging from said hinge lighting portion is visible in a direction parallel to the outer surface of said surface lighting portion at least in the folded condition of said upper housing.

13. A portable terminal apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said light emerging from said hinge lighting portion invisible also in a direction perpendicular to the outer surface of said surface lighting portion.